

GRANTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, October 3, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice-Chair
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Brad Johns
Deputy Mayor Jim Smith
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Geoff Baker
Andrew Higdon
Darren Watts
David Woo

REGRETS: Lori Wozney

STAFF: Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special
Projects
Mr. André MacNeil, Financial Consultant
Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Community Development and
Partnerships
Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Community & Recreation Services
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 11, 2011

Clarification: Page 6: Staff advised that the majority of the information requested would require response from HRM's Civic Events business unit.

MOVED by Mr. Higdon, seconded by Mr. Watts that the minutes of July 11, 2011, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

- 11.1 Resignation – Grants Committee
- 11.2 Property Matter: Proposed Less Than Market Value Lease - Lake Echo Lions Club
- 11.3 Information Item 2 – Councillor Watts

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Mr. Watts that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSON - NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

7.1 Auditor General's Report: Corporate Grants, Donations and Contributions

Ms. Temple introduced Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Community Development and Partnerships. She then explained that the Chief Administrative Officer has created an Audit Coordination Team (ACT) that will assist with the workplan in regard to implementing recommendations stemming from the Auditor General's reports. Ms. Schofield will be meeting with the ACT to address how the recommendations in regard to the Corporate Grants, Donations and Contributions report will be dealt with.

An update is expected to be before the Committee in a couple of months.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence - NONE

8.2 Petitions - NONE

8.3 Delegations - NONE

9. REPORTS

Mr. Geoff Baker entered the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

9.1 HRM Community Grants Program 2011-2012: Appeals

The July 18, 2011 staff report was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple presented the report then responded to questions of clarification from Members of the Committee.

Ms. Temple noted that the Anchor Archives Society has requested a change in conditions of funding for their project application in regard to the percentage (cost) requirement. The Society had requested full funding for the purchase of a color photocopier costing \$10,071.70. A grant of \$6,300 was approved with the proviso that HRM's share not exceed 33% of costs (HRM's grant is 62% not 33% as stated in a previous report). Under these terms the Society would be responsible for the balance of \$3,771.70. The group is unable to meet the cost share requirement and have requested HRM's grant be used for the purchase of a second-hand color copier costing \$7,000 - \$8,000, thereby reducing their cost-share while addressing the need for replacement equipment.

This mater would be an addition to the Tier 1 Arts and Crafts section of Attachment 1.

Councillor Dalrymple suggested that the wording in regard to the recommendation for the Farrell Benevolent Society be clarified by including the wording "an additional" as \$12,500 has already been granted to the Society. Staff confirmed that all information has been received from the Farrell Benevolent Society.

Discussion ensued on Attachment 1, Tier 1.

In regard to Item 9, of Attachment 1, Neptune Theatre, Ms. Temple explained that the Neptune Theatre application has changed its project scope. They have applied for a capital grant with a good explanation of their plan and why the equipment is required. Staff recommend a \$20,000 capital grant for 2011. Ms. Temple explained that staff had notified Neptune Theatre that they could apply under the Capital Grant program.

Councillor Watts expressed concern that there was no other category or program to move the two long standing community arts performing groups to and that Neptune Theatre and Symphony Nova Scotia are economic drivers for this region.

In response to questions of clarification from the Committee, Ms. Temple explained that Information Item 2 outlines the frequency of recurring grants and that the program, to date, has not disallowed recurring applications for awards. The Committee has indicated that they wish to have a phased out approach for multi year awards.

In response to a question by Councillor Dalrymple, Ms. Temple advised that she would provide further information in regard to Neptune Theatre's reserves, if any, and Symphony Nova Scotia's trident fund as the audited financial statements were submitted with the application.

In response to questions of clarification raised by the Committee in regard to the recommended decline of the Khyber Arts Society request, Ms. Temple explained that they could come forward for next years program following the RFP process.

Discussion ensued on Symphony Nova Scotia. Staff advised that the average grant to Symphony Nova Scotia since 2005 has been \$17,916. Regional Council has recently approved \$5,000 as per the program guidelines.

Discussion ensued on the possibility of approving a capital grant to Symphony Nova Scotia. In response to questions by Members of the Committee, staff confirmed that the application received by Symphony Nova Scotia did not contain anything setting out a capital expenditure; the application was for a Program Grant.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Johns that the Grants Committee recommend an additional \$15,000 Program Grant to Symphony Nova Scotia with a registered letter to be sent to Symphony Nova Scotia advising of the adherence, from this point forward, to the Grants Program policy and category cap of \$5,000. MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

Discussion ensued with the following motion being placed:

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Johns that the Grants Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Approve nine (9) grants for a combined total of \$103,100 as outlined in Attachment 1 of the July 18, 2011 report with the following amendments:**
 - a) the inclusion of Anchor Archives Society in Attachment 1 noting the removal of the cost share (percentage) requirement from the project scope.**
 - b) include the wording "an additional" to the recommendation for the Farrell Benevolent Society (#5 of Attachment 1), as follows: *"Staff recommend an additional capital grant of \$12,500 conditional upon full reporting of all capital expenses made in relation to the Building Inspection Report (2011).***

2. **Decline two (2) appeals as outlined in Attachment 2 of the July 18, 2011 report;**
3. **Defer the appeal from Symphony Nova Scotia pending a presentation by the applicant to the HRM Grants Committee as described in Attachment 3 of the July 18, 2011 report.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee agreed to hold a special meeting as soon as possible to hear the appeal by Symphony Nova Scotia.

10. MOTIONS - NONE

11. ADDED ITEMS

11.1 Resignation

The resignation of Ms. Kehoe was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts that the resignation of Ms. Bernadette Kehoe from the Grants Committee be accepted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.2 Property Matter: Proposed Less Than Market Value Lease to the Lake Echo Lions Club

The August 8, 2011 staff report was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into a less than market value lease agreement with the Lake Echo Lions Club for a portion of the premises located at 3168 Highway #7, Lake Echo, as per the key terms and conditions set out in Table 1 in the Discussion section of the August 8, 2011 report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.3 Information Item 2 - HRM Community Grants Program: Recurring Annual Awards

Councillor Watts requested that this item be added to the next agenda for discussion.

The Committee requested that staff provide a listing of the projects and groups that have been recurring on an annual basis.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

13. NEXT MEETING DATE – Special meeting October 11th

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Community Grants Program: Delinquent Reporting – Status Update
2. HRM Community Grants Program: Recurring Annual Awards
3. Response to Symphony Nova Scotia re: Presentation Request
4. Response to Neptune Theatre Foundation re: Presentation Request